



# GROUND COVER

NEWS AND SOLUTIONS FROM THE GROUND UP

DECEMBER 2018 VOLUME 9 ISSUE 12

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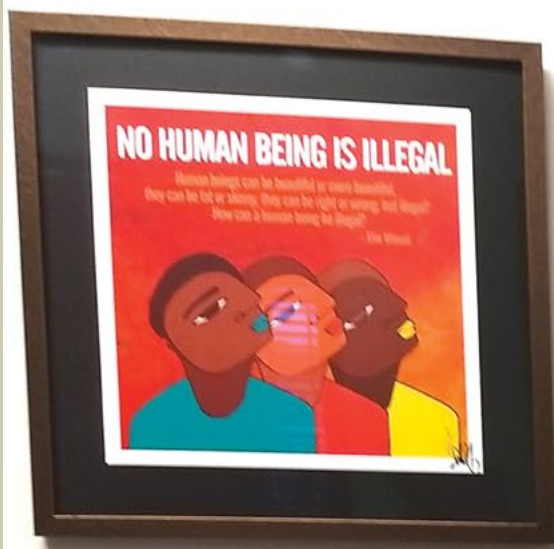
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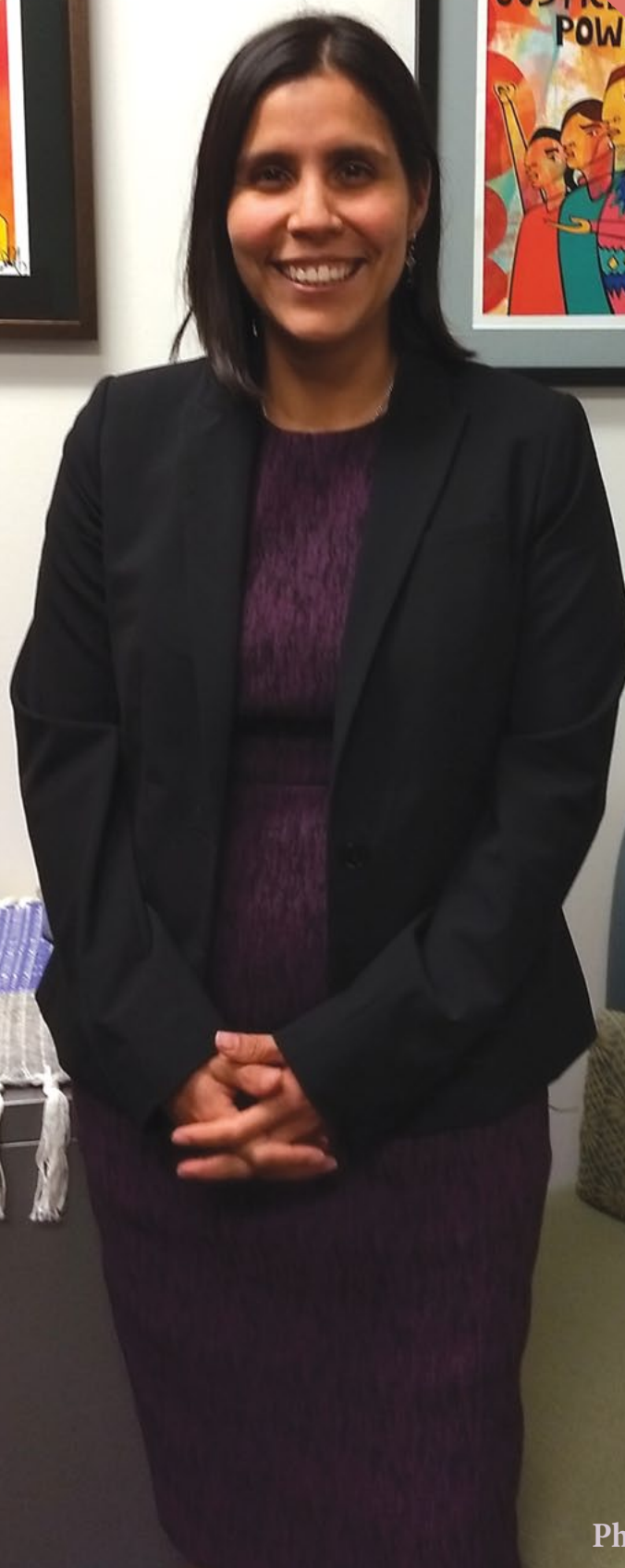


Photo by Peter Beyer

Your donation directly benefits the vendors.  
Please buy only from badged vendors.

\$2



## Vendors, customers and community find meaning together, change lives

by Susan  
Publisher

I mingled with many people on Election Day, some of whom recognized me from my involvement with Groundcover News. Some took the opportunity to comment on their favorite vendors or ask about those they hadn't seen in a while.

The most poignant for me was from a woman we'll call Becky who recalled Rissa Haynes – a beloved Groundcover vendor who passed in 2015 – and tearfully enumerated all she missed about her: her loving eyes, warming smile and indomitable, compassionate and loving spirit. Despite all her physical tribulations, Rissa got herself up and out, presented her best self and left her customers feeling special, ending her interactions with them with a hearty, "God bless you!"

Rissa inspired Becky to overcome her own arthritis and get out in the world. Becky now enjoys her interactions with Cindy G. (Kung Fu Panda) while her companion is a fan of Hailu, who she finds at the People's Food Co-op and the Farmers Market. Hailu has told me repeatedly that what he does as a Groundcover vendor is important; that every day he makes an impact on people's lives; that he might be the only person that day to have a meaningful interaction with any given customer. The way these women talked about our vendors, his words were manifest.

One gentleman confided that he'd have helped vendor Shawn Story learn to drive but only discovered his wish to learn while reading Shawn's obituary. Learning from that, perhaps you will see a "Vendor Needs" column in upcoming issues of Groundcover.

People asked after Tony, Mary, Pony

and Lit, and told stories about Joe. They weren't always sure of vendors' names but they knew something about their stories, and smiled as they told them.

People often thank me for bringing Groundcover News into our community and their lives. I respond that I made the opportunity available, but it was the community embracing and owning it that made it a reality. The time was right in 2010 for a street newspaper in Washtenaw County. We all stepped into the roles to which we were called.

With a strong local economy, some of the underlying imperatives are no longer so weighty. But there is still a hunger for local news from authentic sources, a need for supplemental income by those who are hard to employ, and a need for human connection. And we can be pretty sure that good times won't continue forever and that it will be a blessing having an organization

like Groundcover News ready to help those most afflicted in a recession. Meanwhile, we intend to adapt to circumstances and fill what voids we can.

We are grateful beyond words to those community members whose volunteer efforts keep us going (our office staff, writers, editors, proofreaders and interns), to those who raise the money and do the work for special projects (cold weather gear, holiday party food and gifts, Vendor Appreciation Week, outreach festival booth staffing, benefit events) and to all of you who buy Groundcover News and find your own ways to allow Groundcover vendors to contribute to your lives, and make your vendor feel special, cared for and appreciated.

We wish you all the happiest of holidays and a safe, fulfilling and blessed New Year.

## Detroit – canary in the mine: An interview with Monica Lewis-Patrick, Michigan's water warrior

by Emily Green

*Editor's note: The following excerpt, Part 2, is continued from Part 1 in the November edition of Groundcover. The article was originally printed by our sister paper, Street Roots, in Portland, Oregon, on April 27, 2018.*

## Part 2

**Emily Green:** Do you see a connection between the water crisis in Flint and the water crisis in Detroit, and if so, can you explain that connection to our readers?

**Monica Lewis-Patrick:** Yes. The Flint water crisis and the Flint poisoning are deeply connected to the Detroit water shut-off. Both of those issues are driven by basically the [same] bottom line: greed. You have the governor of the state of Michigan using his powers as the executive of the state under this very egregious law called Emergency Management Law, which is funded by the Cato Institute and the Koch Brothers, and 37 states have some form of this preemptive piece of legislation. A lot of times people don't even know it. What it allows them to do is set aside democracy. It allows them to set aside elected officials. It allows them to close up union contracts. It allows them to

sell off and skim off assets of municipalities and school systems without a vote of the people. It allows one person to act as dictator and king. What we found is that in the state of Michigan (it was reported on "The Rachel Maddow Show"), 53 percent of the African-American population has been under this austerity law.

When you look at Detroit and Flint, both cities have an emergency manager. Both cities were advised by Veolia, which is one of the worst water management entities in the world. They advised Detroit they should privatize their operations. Detroit at one point had a system that was managed by engineers and chemists and botanists and citizens, a very robust system. That system now has been reduced to no more than high school students. So the very life-giving system that half the state relies on now has substandard management and oversight of the very system that was once world-class. What happened in Detroit was, as they were rushing to seize the water department during the biggest contrived bankruptcy in the history of America, the largest asset was the water department, and



In July 2015, demonstrators marched for a week from Detroit to Flint organized under the theme "CLEAN, AFFORDABLE WATER FOR ALL: Detroit to Flint Water Justice Journey."

Flint was the largest external customer to the water department. You had the city of Detroit offer Flint a water contract that would have actually saved Flint \$80 million over the course of 10 years. But you have the governor and the use of this private company that is interested in privatizing water globally actually advise Flint to purchase and invest in building their own water system, which was KWA, the Karegnondi Water Authority. Well, that system was never intended to provide potable water. What it was intended to do was provide water for when the governor is out of office – he already has plans to create a parallel system for fracking!

When you look at what has played out

see DETROIT, page 10

## The power of a simple story

by Rev Dr.  
Martha Brunell  
Groundcover  
Contributor

New to the museum scene in Chicago is the American Writers Museum. In 2017 it took up quiet residence on the second floor of 180 N. Michigan. It is committed to being a place where we all can find our words. Already it has been heralded as a modest-sized treasure in a city full of gigantic museums. On its brochure it suggests that its scope of writers runs from Emily Dickinson to Dr. Seuss, embracing the language of poems and sermons, essays and screenplays, criminal thrillers and children's books, songs and essays and so much more. Writers represent the wide array of ethnic and cultural origins that characterize our country. Running until next May is a special exhibit on Frederick Douglas called "Agitator." A new exhibit that just opened up named "Electric" features Bob Dylan – poet, composer, performer and Nobel Laureate.

I began my first visit there in the children's gallery. One wall was covered with a tree mural, home to 32 squirrels all in different poses, each reading a different classic book in the canon of American children's literature. Around the remaining edges of the room were

three special interactive displays on Langston Hughes' poetry for young people, E. B. White's "Charlotte's Web," and Maurice Sendak's "Where the Wild Things Are." I spent time with all three of these displays and was especially thrilled to sit down with E.B. White, Charlotte, Wilbur, Fern, Templeton and everyone else in that storied barn.

"Charlotte's Web" and I were born in the same year, 1952. That makes us both mid-century classics and old friends. In kindergarten and first grade I was introduced at home to the full-length versions of "Heidi," the Winnie the Pooh books and "The Wonderful Wizard of Oz." In second grade, when Charlotte and I were both seven, I made her acquaintance at school, and "Charlotte's Web" is still on my shelf of favorite books from my six-plus decades of reading.

Until I showed up at the American Writers Museum, I thought I knew everything about Charlotte, her web, the barnyard community, friendship and the saving of life – first the life of Wilbur, the runt of the pig litter, and then the lives of all Charlotte's children, who would be released from her egg sack after her death.

If you aren't familiar with the story, here are the basic details. Over the protests of her father, Fern maneuvers to keep Wilbur alive at first. Meanwhile among the sheep and the horses, the geese and the goslings, and every other creature

in the barn, an unlikely friendship is struck between the gray spider Charlotte spinning a web in the upper part of the barn's doorway and Wilbur in his pen and manure on the floor below. Through a series of words she crafts in her web, first "Some Pig," then "Terrific," next "Radiant" and later "Humble," Charlotte extends Wilbur's life because all the people are convinced the words in the web are one miracle after another. Templeton, the rat – the least liked member of the barn community – is the only one who rummages in trash and refuse near and far. With some cajoling, he brings back to Charlotte a few scraps of paper that yield some of the words for the web. Charlotte accompanies Wilbur to the county fair where he is quite a hit, but her short life ends there before the return trip home. Wilbur carries Charlotte's egg sac in his mouth and greets her many children when they later emerge in the barn.

What I learned at the American Writers Museum is that E.B. White was an early supporter of the young United Nations. "Charlotte's Web" reflects not only his exquisite and familiar observations of the natural world but also his belief

in the possibility of a diverse, interdependent community of peoples and nations. And he was willing to trust unlikely alliances that extend the wellbeing of all. He, like Martin Luther King, Jr. after him, dreamed of a wide and wondrous beloved community. Or if we were to borrow a term from bell hooks, E.B. White wrote a tale that serves as a "counter-narrative of love." From the larger natural world around him he spotted example after example of diversity, mutuality and interdependence. Those inspired his simple barnyard tale as one of hope for humanity.

In these days of December, you and I – the writers, vendors, and readers of Groundcover News – are affiliated with many different spiritual traditions or no particular tradition. As the days grow colder and darker in the northern hemisphere, we engage in celebrations this month that embrace desires for justice and peace among all. We yearn for safer, more resilient, respectful and creative bonds with friends and strangers. Among the things that give me the courage to seek hope, peace, joy and love, in these days, is the tale of a spider and a pig that I have long known.

GROUNDCOVER  
MISSION:

Creating opportunity and a voice for low-income people while taking action to end homelessness and poverty.

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## Bethlehem United Church of Christ

423 S. Fourth Avenue, Ann Arbor, MI 48104 734-665-6149  
Bethlehem-ucc.org facebook.com/bethlehemuccA2

Bethlehem Church is home of the Groundcover office



## DECEMBER 2018 EVENTS:

Sat. Dec 1 Ann Arbor Youth Chorale Concert at Bethlehem  
Thur. Dec 6 & 20 Bethlehem Prayer Circle 11:30 AM  
Thur. Dec 6 Shin-Ae Chun Organ Concert 12:15 PM  
Fri. Dec 7, 14, 21, 28 Yoga for Advent 2:00 PM  
Sun. Dec 9 Christmas Cantata, Chancel Choir 10:00 AM  
Thur. Dec 13 Blue Christmas Service for those grieving 7:00 PM  
Sun. Dec 16 Children's Christmas Program 10:00 AM  
Mon. Dec 24 Christmas Eve Services  
5:00 PM – Family-Centered Candlelight Service of Lessons & Carols  
7:30 PM – Candlelight Service of Lessons & Carols  
11:00 PM – Candlelight Service of Lessons & Carols with Holy Communion

## Sunday Worship Times

8:30 a.m. Chapel  
10:00 a.m. Sanctuary  
10:15 a.m. Sunday school

Coffee Connection  
follows each service



a just world for all



## Overnight warming center open now

by Will Shakespeare  
Groundcover Vendor #258

The Delonis Center, located at 312 W. Huron St., Ann Arbor, welcomes individuals looking for refuge from the cold of winter. “The quality of mercy excludes no one” is a popular expression in some of our faith-based communities and captures the spirit of the nighttime warming shelter.

The Delonis Center’s overnight warming center programs began this year on Monday, November 12. It is anticipated that this program will end during the second week of April, 2019. The warming center is available to non-residential guests starting at 6:30 p.m. (following the onsite 5 p.m. community dinner). Bedding is set up at 9 p.m. and removed in the morning.

In addition to a safe place to sleep each night at the Delonis Center, guests can access a wide variety of services onsite including meals, case management, medical care and most importantly, assistance with finding safe, permanent housing.

The Shelter Association of Washtenaw County (SAWC), located at Delonis Center, manages the overnight warming center and the nighttime Rotating Winter Shelter program hosted by local faith-based congregations.

The SAWC has an interesting history. It started in 1982 when St. Andrew’s Episcopal Church of Ann Arbor and the Interfaith Council of Congregations (ICC) joined forces in order to “address the needs of adult individuals experiencing homelessness in Washtenaw County.” A volunteer partnership



SAWC director Dan Kelly and Operations Manager Clay Bell (left) join more shelter staff outside the Delonis Center, where temporary beds are set up on the ground floor each winter.

was formed, followed by the rental of a house on Division Street in Ann Arbor to serve 25 homeless individuals.

Over the years, SAWC rented or purchased several downtown facilities. The city and the county governments helped with funds for renovating a building on West Huron Street that served as an overnight shelter for men and women. A daytime shelter was later opened on Ashley Street.

Because of the increasing number of domestic violence victims, in 1996 SAWC decided to open an overnight shelter on Felch Street for women. It served approximately 15 women. Some volunteer social workers, students, and the County Assistant Prosecutors provided case management assistance and referrals.

In 1997, the former Chairman of Ann Arbor’s Great Lakes Bank (Now TCF

Bank), Robert J. Delonis, led the community’s effort to end homelessness. He came at the right time because SAWC was “on the verge of disappearing with no other organizations prepared to shelter those in need.” He donated millions to the cause.

The new building, which is a good model of public-private partnership, was completed in 1998. Ellen Schulmeister was hired as the first Executive Director. By resolution of the Washtenaw Board of Commissioners, the building was named Robert J. Delonis Center.

The Delonis Center houses approximately 35 adult male residents on the third floor. The main administration building is located on the fourth floor, and the case managers’ offices and a satellite Packard Health Clinic are located on the second floor. Rooms for

females are also on the fourth and second floors. The time of stay varies from person to person. Residential clients are served year-round.

Community activism related to exposure deaths in 2014 led to expansion of the nighttime warming center so that every adult who comes to the shelter by early evening will find a safe place to spend the night.

The current Executive Director of the SAWC is Dan Kelly and the Operations Manager is Clay Bell. The Clinical Director is John Schiffrers. A support staff of committed case managers and operation specialists work closely with the leadership team to provide smooth and responsive customer service. There is also a governing Board of Directors.

The primary goals of the Delonis leadership are to help find affordable housing and jobs for their clients so they can leave the shelter and thrive independently. The community climate and leadership continue to get better. “Be the change that you are looking for” is now a catch phrase for all the stakeholders – management, guests, residents and community advocates alike.

Families should contact Housing Access of Washtenaw County (HAWC) at 734-961-1999 to be referred to appropriate shelter resources. Individuals are also urged to call HAWC for referrals to all services appropriate for them and to speed access to their first night of shelter.

Visit SAWC online at [www.annarborshelter.org](http://www.annarborshelter.org) or call 734-662-2829 for any additional information.



Warming Center coordinators look forward to welcoming guests again this year. Sheri Wander, right, has managed the Warming Center since its inception.

see WARMING CENTER, page 5

## Daytime Warming Center: A refuge from the cold winter weather

by Will Shakespeare

Everyone looking for shelter from the cold during the daytime on weekdays is cordially invited to visit the Daytime Warming Center, a program coordinated by Shelter Association of Washtenaw County (SAWC), run by MISSION and hosted by Ann Arbor churches on a rotational basis.

Participating centers have plenty of food, coffee, tea, juice and pastries. There are activities that can serve as sources of diversion and happier memories. They include art works, games, music, inter-group dialogues, conversations, meditation, poetry and literature.

A key feature of the Daytime Warming Center is the “Community Norms Agreement.” These basic rules of conduct were developed by people who use the warming center to create a safe and welcoming place. Cooperation is requested from all participants. Everyone is asked to read and sign the agreement.

The Weekday Warming Center is a busy place. Over 350 individuals used it throughout the four months of last winter. Average daily use was 30 guests in December, 85 in January, 70 in February and 30 guests in March.

The Ypsi Gathering Space at the Riverside Arts Center will also open as a daytime warming shelter in December,

## Daytime warming center

continued from page 4

with days and times to be determined.

The weekend daytime shelter is available at the Delonis Center, 312 W. Huron St., Ann Arbor, from 8 a.m. – 7 p.m.

In addition to the daytime warming programs, the Peace House of Ypsilanti (located at 706 Davis St.) will be opened for some meals and other winter amnesty warming programs. Extended hours are still being set, but Wednesdays from 6-8 p.m. and Sundays from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. are operational. For more on availability, email Sheri at [playfulspirit@gmail.com](mailto:playfulspirit@gmail.com) or text her at 734-754-0648 and she will reply when she can.

The Daytime Warming Center Program is just one piece of the incredible work done by MISSION. As programs and services grow, so do expenses. Those of you wishing to help can make a direct financial contribution to MISSION and note “daytime warming center” in the memo of your check, or in the notes for an online donation, available at: [www.missiona2.org/take-action.html#financialsupport](http://www.missiona2.org/take-action.html#financialsupport).

Many of you already donate so much in direct monetary aid and in-kind contributions, so consider sharing this article (and your own warming center stories) with a friend who is not already involved. Perhaps they would like to bring a meal, come share a talent or make a financial contribution. In-kind

donations are shared with Peace House, Hill House and Mercy House, and any money raised beyond the immediate needs of the warming center will be shared with Ypsi Gathering Space and used for the purchase of humanitarian aid items such as warm sleeping bags and propane for camping heaters.

*Will Shakespeare is a Groundcover News Writer, Vendor, and Volunteer. He served as a Board Member of MISSION for five years. Currently, he is a Program Advisor and a Community Engagement Volunteer at the Peace House.*



Pastor Alex McCauslin of Journey of Faith Christian Church shows where Warming Center guests eat meals.

## WASHTENAW COUNTY WINTER WARMING CENTERS

### WEEKDAY DAYTIME WARMING CENTERS

Most locations will be open as a shelter on weekdays from 9 AM – 4 PM.  
Please contact the Delonis Center for referrals & details at 734-662-2829

Dec 3-14, 2018

Journey of Faith Christian Church, 1900 Manchester

Dec 17-31, 2017

Trinity Lutheran Church, 1400 W Stadium

January 1-31, 2019

St. Mary’s Student Parish, 331 Thompson

February 1-28, 2019

Monday, Wednesday & Friday ONLY

First Congregational Church, 608 E William

February 1-28, 2019

Tuesday & Thursday ONLY

First Baptist Church of Ann Arbor, 517 E Washington

March 1-15, 2019

TBD

March 18-29, 2019

Journey of Faith Christian Church, 1900 Manchester

### WEEKEND DAYTIME/ OVERNIGHT WARMING CENTER

The Delonis Center

(312 W Huron Street, Ann Arbor, MI 48103)

Weekends: 8:00 AM – 7:00 PM

**Overnight:** Shelter is available from 6:30 PM every night between Nov 12, 2018 - Apr 1, 2019. There is also onsite dinner provided at 5:00 PM. Beds are set-up at 9pm.

Please contact the Delonis Center at 734-662-2829 if you have any questions or need more information.

**ALL clients must call HAWC at  
(734) 961-1999 for referral**



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1/6	\$129.95	\$165.95	5 x 4
1/4	\$159.95	\$215.95	5 x 6.25
1/2	\$299.95	\$399.95	10.25 x 6.5 or 5 x 13
Full Page	\$495.95	\$669.95	10.25 x 13

Three Months/Three Issues: 15% off

Six Months/Six Issues: 25% off

Full Year/Twelve Issues: 35% off

Additional 20% off ads with coupons



## Michigan Advocacy Program provides justice for all

by Laurie Wechter

Groundcover Director of Human Services

Michigan Advocacy Program is a massive conglomerate, made up of community-based free legal aid programs. Michigan Advocacy Program serves disenfranchised individual clients and classes of clients in 13 counties and administers several statewide programs. Its agencies share a building and a receptionist who directs potential clients to the appropriate service provider.

Ann Routt, the co-director and soon-to-be director of Michigan Advocacy Program, answered questions and gave Groundcover a tour of on-site operations at their recently acquired headquarters at 15 S. Washington, Ypsilanti.

As Routt explained what Michigan Advocacy Program has become, she spoke of how a once small, under-funded group of legal service agencies has become powerful and “impactful” over the past 50 years. She said this was due to the recognition by local, state and federal government, along with several foundations, that this work is necessary and because the groups under Michigan Advocacy Program’s umbrella have done their work in a way that has been strategic, flexible to changing client needs and with a commitment to excellence. Routt says that Michigan Advocacy Program has been a success because it has provided “the right tools and vision for doing the right work.”

Legal aid agencies are run by lawyers and staff concerned about justice for all. These agencies provide free legal services to low-income individuals who have civil matters that must be fought in court. These individuals cannot pay the exorbitant fees charged by private lawyers. (Access to a court-appointed attorney at government expense is only guaranteed to citizens with criminal cases.) Civil law deals with behavior that constitutes an injury to an individual or other private party. Examples are breach of contract, wrongful foreclosure, fraudulent debt collection, lack of due process in eviction, domestic violence, denial of health care or disability benefits, immigration rights, unfair labor practices, fair housing and negligence resulting in injury or death.

Michigan Advocacy Program relocated from the small brick building at 420 N. Fourth Ave. in Ann Arbor in July. Routt explained that the building was bursting at the seams and lo-



Diana Elaina Marin is currently a staff attorney with Farmworker Legal Services. As of January 1, she will be the lead litigation attorney at Michigan Immigrant Rights Center.

cated in Ann Arbor, which was not near the majority of their clients. Fourth Ave., however, is where Legal Aid of South Central Michigan – Michigan Advocacy Program’s original name – resided for most of its 50-year history, after it was born as a merger of local legal aid societies in four counties. Routt laughingly marveled that management meetings used to be held in retiring co-director, Bob Gillett’s living room. Now Michigan Advocacy Program has enormous conference rooms, two of which were once showroom floors for the repurposed furniture store they now occupy. Routt can now imagine their management team, staff planning committees and other community groups comfortably gathered in one of their giant meeting rooms for an entire day.

In the late 1990s, states were challenged to create “an integrated and comprehensive state-wide network to provide legal services to specific populations.” In response to this mandate, Michigan Advocacy Program became the umbrella organization for legal services and now oversees two programs, Legal Services of South Central Michigan (LSSCM), which has offices in Lansing, Monroe, Jackson, Ypsilanti and Battle Creek, and Farmworker Legal Services, serving migrant and settled-out



Starting in late 2016, MPLP was able to increase services to victims of domestic violence and elder abuse through the **Crime Victims Legal Assistance Project (CVLAP)**, a three-year \$2 million grant for lawyers all over the state to give free legal services to victims of criminal acts. **Elder Abuse** funding, in particular, has significantly improved services to vulnerable older adults. In the past, said Routt, services for older adults were more limited to wills and power of attorney documents. The governmental funding agencies have done some reprioritizing and continue to look to provide additional programs for low-income seniors.

Michigan Poverty Law Program specializes in programs such as providing training for attorneys willing to do pro bono work. MPLP answers individual case questions, builds single-issue task forces, and does systemic litigation. The Poverty Law Program also oversees the **Michigan Foreclosure Prevention Program**. The **Michigan Elder Justice Initiative** provides local and state Long-term Care Ombudsman services responding to the needs of residents of long-term care facilities around the state, and the **Michigan Health Link Ombudsman’s office**, serving as an advocate and problem-solver for beneficiaries enrolled in MI Health Link.

**Michigan Immigrant Rights Center (MIRC)** is mostly limited to advocacy-related issues, lacking the resources needed to fully accommodate the large population they serve. However, they have a significant individual caseload, especially of cases involving unaccompanied children.

see ADVOCACY, page 7



## St. Francis of Assisi Parish

Come Worship With Us!

## Mass Schedule

**Saturday 5 p.m.**  
(English) & **7 p.m.**  
(Spanish)

**Sunday 7 a.m.,**  
**8:30 a.m., 10:30**  
**a.m., 12:30 p.m.,**  
**5 p.m.**

## 2018 “A light rises in the darkness” (Psalm 112)

## Advent Confession times:

Saturday, Dec. 1, 8, and 22—3:30-4:30 p.m.  
Saturday, Dec. 15—11 a.m.-noon and 3:30-4:30 p.m.

**Communal Penance service:** Thursday, Dec. 20—7 p.m. (No confessions Dec. 29)

## Christmas Mass times:

**Christmas Eve Masses:** Monday, Dec. 24—4 p.m., 6 p.m., 8 p.m. and 10:30 p.m. (10:30 mass will be live-streamed and available to view anytime). Caroling begins at 10 p.m.

**Christmas Day Masses:** Tuesday, Dec. 25—9:30 a.m. and 11:30 a.m.

**Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God (Holy Day of Obligation):** Monday, Dec. 31—Vigil Mass 5 p.m.; Tuesday, Jan. 1—10 a.m.

2250 East Stadium Blvd., Ann Arbor  
**www.StFrancisA2.com** 734-821-2100

## Michigan Advocacy Program

continued from page 6

Also under the Michigan Statewide Advocacy Services umbrella is **Michigan Legal Help**, a computer site that provides legal self-help. Routt demonstrated the site’s simple process with its user-friendly visual images that help users select a legal problem from a broad array of choices, walks them through a written interview, then provides legal documents that can be turned in to the court system. These forms are state court-approved and thus legal anywhere in Michigan.

Each of these many programs has had a tremendous impact on Michigan’s low-income citizens being able to fight for their rights. According to Michigan Advocacy Program’s 2017 Annual Report, the **Legal Services of South Central Michigan Field Programs** took on 10,476 cases and helped 24,765 people in 2017 alone. Housing and eviction cases totaled 3,653 of these cases. This is significant, in that Michigan saw, on average, almost 93 evictions each day in 2016. “Unlike landlords, tenants tend to lack legal assistance in eviction court cases and are especially vulnerable to

losing their homes.” Michigan Advocacy Program helps families keep their homes by, for example, negotiating payment plans in court allowing residents to pay owed rent over time.

**Michigan Legal Help** has been particularly effective with its self-help website. The site has had 1.4 million visits and 109,057 legal forms drafted. Their LiveHelp agents have assisted 7,098 people and there are 18 Self-Help Centers or Networks in the state serving 56.8 percent of Michigan. Their website is [www.michiganlegalhelp.org](http://www.michiganlegalhelp.org).

Michigan Immigrant Rights Center has handled 1,259 immigration cases, helped 3,284 people, filed 160 citizenship applications and handled 154 cases for unaccompanied minors.

In addition to its own programs, Michigan Advocacy Program offers its conference space to non-profit agencies for meetings and workshops. Michigan Advocacy Program regularly collaborates with these other agencies to provide coordinated services to their mutual clients. During our visit, Ozone House staff were in a medium-sized

Michigan Advocacy Program agency snapshot:  
Michigan Immigrant Rights Center (MIRC)

Kujoe was 15 years old and living in his home country in western Africa when a mob of teenagers attacked him, leaving him severely wounded. The group targeted Kujoe for his connections to the LGBTQ community. Kujoe’s family then threatened to kill him, both for his friendship with a gay man and as retribution for his father’s recent death, which they attributed to Kujoe’s actions.

As soon as he was able, he fled to the U.S. where he was placed in federal custody in Michigan. This is where MIRC met Kujoe and represented him in seeking asylum. When Kujoe was approved for Special Immigrant Juvenile Status, MIRC also accompanied him to his



adjustment of status interview. Today, Kujoe has a green card, is no longer in court proceedings and is living independently in Michigan.

*Michigan Immigrant Rights Center has handled 1,259 immigration cases, helped 3,284 people, filed 160 citizenship applications and handled 154 cases for unaccompanied minors.*

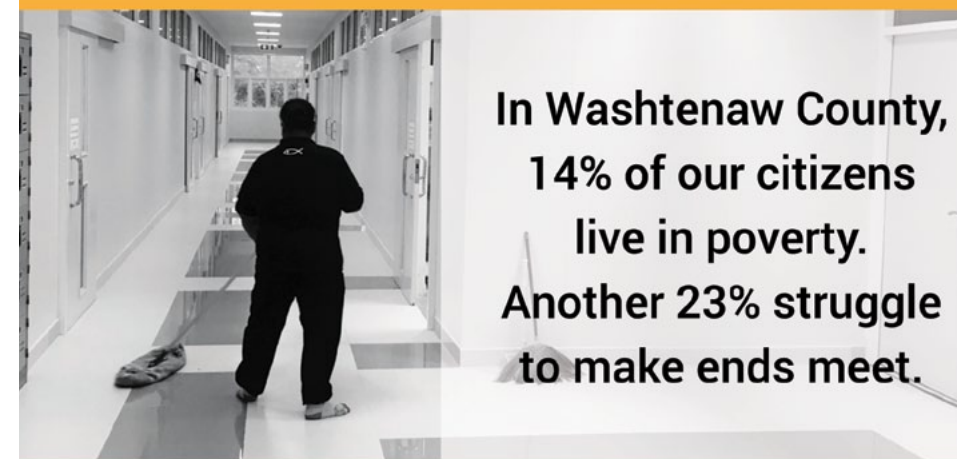
conference room meeting with Legal Aid of South Central Michigan staff.

Michigan Advocacy Program has a huge, comfortable client waiting room and a beautiful, open area for their attorney confabs. There are 30 well-turned offices off the waiting room and two large areas for student law interns who come from all over the country to work with Michigan Advocacy Program.

of resources, and the superiority of their programs and attorneys, delivers excellence that should be a model for all non-profits!

*For help, Washtenaw County residents should call 734-665-6181. Callers with immigration questions should contact the Michigan Immigrant Rights Center at 734-239-6863.*

## WE NEED YOUR HELP!



In Washtenaw County,  
14% of our citizens  
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Another 23% struggle  
to make ends meet.

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United Way  
of Washtenaw County



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Michigan Advocacy Program’s 115 attorneys and administrative staff believe that equal justice is a right, not a privilege. In this writer’s opinion, their effective use

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Ann Arbor, MI 48104



Boober Tours update



by Kevin Spangler  
Groundcover  
Vendor #307

Football season is coming to an end. Now we move into hockey and basketball. It is great operating a pedicab in such an amazing town where we stay busy year-round. We keep it kicking, but sometimes we need that extra motivation to stay out in the cold.

I just introduced a challenge for the whole crew for the use of our electric

motor cab. The challenge is that all week, whoever pays the most in rent by Friday gets to use the Bloom City Club electric motor cab. So far the top two are tied. The first day was rough due to crew members not understanding why we are doing this competition and worrying that someone could be dishonest. I assured the crew that the energy you put in the universe is the energy you get back and that you cannot lie to the universe. We are doing this to help the business grow and to work together as a team, and this competition will help us grow in many ways.

Today I stumbled across a special event, hosted by the Shelter Association, for raising awareness around homelessness and hunger. We went around getting photographs of people who would support the cause. I know our group got 28 pictures in one hour. It was a blast – especially because I lived in the shelter for three months in 2015-16.

Bad news for Boober is that I lost my app guy to the casino. He was not willing to meditate with me and do the hundred-reason motivational program. On the bright side, I have half an app. Later this month, I'm going to an app meetup to find the person who will finish the app.

The community has overwhelmingly got our back for Boober Tours and has donated a lot of outdoor gear for us. I'm talking high-end clothing, nice hats and gloves. Everyone on the crew is so grateful for their new clothing and some are saying it's the best they have ever owned. If you struggle a lot and you have new, fresh clothes that keep you warm, you feel like a human being.



Faded Photograph

by Ron Pagereski  
Groundcover Contributor

In the rain I see you there  
Rumpled hat on rumpled hair  
A kind word you seldom hear spoken  
So there you stand alone and broken  
Your cardboard sign you hold on high  
Though none can hear your depressing sigh  
Dollar, quarter or dime you seek  
None given to you, none even speak.  
You are the homeless of the street  
And there you stand on tired feet  
To talk to you they would discover  
You are someone's dad, a son, or brother

Most will not address your call  
They do not know about your fall  
At one time you were just like them  
Big house, big car, you were a gem  
But now you stand with forlorn hope  
In heat or cold you have to cope  
A wrinkled photo you show to all  
Of a happy family before your fall  
I heard the morning news today  
A body found, I heard them say  
Just a bum like all the rest  
A wrinkled photo held tight to breast.

Sudoku ★★☆☆☆ 4puz.com

4			2	9				
5	7						2	
1	2		5					8
	6	1	7					4
			1		9			
2					6	1	5	
9					5		8	2
	5						7	6
				7	4			9

Fill in the squares so that each row, column, and 3-by-3 box contain the numbers 1 through 9.

GROUNDCOVER  
VENDOR CODE

While Groundcover News is a nonprofit organization and newspaper vendors are considered contracted self-employers, we still have expectations of how vendors should conduct themselves while selling and representing the paper.

The following list is our Vendor Code of Conduct, which every vendor reads and signs before receiving a badge and papers. We request that if you discover a vendor violating any tenets of the Code, please contact us and provide as many details as possible. Our paper and our vendors should be positively impacting our County.

badge when selling papers.

- I will only purchase the paper from Groundcover News Staff and will not sell to or buy papers from other Groundcover News vendors, especially vendors who have been suspended or terminated.

- I agree to treat all customers, staff and other vendors respectfully. I will not "hard sell," threaten, harass or pressure customers, staff, or other vendors verbally or physically.

- I will not sell Groundcover News under the influence of drugs or alcohol.

- I understand that I am not a legal employee of Groundcover News but a contracted worker responsible for my own well-being and income.

- I understand that my badge is property of Groundcover News and will not deface it. I will present my badge when purchasing the papers.

- I agree to stay off private property when selling Groundcover News.

- I understand to refrain from

All vendors must agree to the following code of conduct:

- Groundcover News will be distributed for a voluntary donation of \$2, or the face value of the paper. I agree not to ask for more than face value or solicit donations by any other means.

- I will only sell current issues of Groundcover News.

- I agree not to sell additional goods or products when selling the paper or to panhandle, including panhandling with only one paper.

- I will wear and display my

Alien Invasion Peter A. Collins

ACROSS

- California valley
- Edit menu option
- City chief
- Bad sport's gloat
- X-ray \_\_\_\_
- Overhead
- Outerwear in Nuevo León?
- Religious crusade
- Ruby, for one
- Man/mouse connector
- Sound from a squeaky derailleur?
- Southwest tribe
- Plenty, slangily
- Friend of Harry and Hermione
- End-of-term hurdle
- Pointed projectile
- Mars or Mercury
- Men of Mexico
- Protest at a hockey game?
- Knit fabric
- Org. for drivers
- Entrepreneurial Musk
- 1993 and 1994 Best Actor winner
- NYSE or NASDAQ
- Construction site sight
- Greek Hs
- Low-brow dance show?
- JFK posting
- Watanabe of "The Last Samurai"
- Genesis son
- Sketchy bedroom activity?
- Stares intently
- October birthstone
- Cub Scout groups
- Choices for fencers
- Pre-spike volleyball plays
- Mile. of Madrid

DOWN

- \_\_\_\_ card
- 1945 Pacific battle site
- The "Queen of Soul" or the "King of Pop", for instance
- Off the beaten path

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14				15				16				
17				18				19				
20							21			22		
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44					45			46				
47					48			49				
50				51				52				
53				54				55	56			57
58								59			60	
61								62				63

Peter A. Collins

- Food label fig.
- "Weekend Edition" ainer
- Ruby, for one
- Element #8
- Title of respect
- Jackson Five hit
- Co-producer of John Lennon's "Imagine"
- Where most weekend golfers end up
- Sells (for)
- Spock's pointy pair
- Runway model?
- Michael Jackson hit
- Cut short
- Big bears
- They're off the beaten path
- Cost for a service
- Come down with
- The English Beat genre
- Trig class ratio, briefly
- Actress Blanchett
- Bono's bandmate
- Squalid building
- Zoned out
- LeBron James, since 2018
- Words on a penny
- Court barrier
- Juicy fruit
- Jalisco home
- Michael Jackson hit
- Sends an invoice
- Conical confection
- Like early hours
- Bonobo or Baboon
- Cave dweller
- Air marshals' org.

selling on public buses, federal property or stores unless there is permission from the owner.

- I agree to stay at least one block away from another vendor. I will also abide by the Vendor corner policy.

If you see any Groundcover News vendors not abiding by the code of conduct, please report the activity to: [contact@groundcovernews.com](mailto:contact@groundcovernews.com), (734) 707-9210.

Strange (but Mostly True) Stories About a Mother and her Daughter • Cy Klone © 2017

So, any thoughts on what presents you'd like this year?

What can I say? I'm trying to do my part.

And don't think it doesn't break my heart as a mother to know it! We try our best only to see more conflict and division. How any mother can bear this is beyond me.

Yes, about those attacks my "peaceful" little hypocrite.....

Is that "peace on earth" thing I keep asking for still on back-order?

Yes, I've come to realize peace on earth is a gift requiring a multitude of individual acts.

Oh, you know we were just playing. I love you, Mom, and never want to cause you any unhappiness. Let's both enjoy the holidays and keep doing our part for peace on earth.

Well, I know you care and make your efforts towards peace. I also remember how well you took it when I ambushed you from behind the couch a few days ago.

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## Detroit's water woes

continued from page 2

in both Detroit and Flint, the communities have been driven deeper into debt. They have less power over their municipal governance. They have less say-so in terms of their assets, and both cities right now are suffering from the lack of access to clean, safe and affordable water. What is even more egregious is the fact that if you don't have running water in your household for 72 hours or more, you're in jeopardy of losing custody of your children! They are threatening people if they can't pay these enormous water rates, then they will lose their children. For poor folks, the most valuable asset that you have is your children. It's your hope; it's your belief there will be a better day. They do it to get people to move out of the city of Detroit. Because right now they are waging a comeback, but that comeback is happening on the backs of working and poor folk.

We're sitting right now in the middle of a public health crisis. We have a hepatitis A epidemic. We have also had an uptick of cholera, an uptick of listeria. Some of these illnesses are directly correlated with waterborne diseases. You have on top of that the fact that in Detroit, we have an older, concentrated population. Many of them are elders that deal with respiratory problems. You have a large population of children that are asthmatic, so many of them have breathing issues that require water and cleaning.

There is a major issue around people being clinically dehydrated. We were the community from the grass roots that had to raise the question within the health system and Global Health Initiative to begin to even look at the correlation of the uptick of these infectious diseases and the fact the community didn't have water. Of course they pushed back on that issue once we got the evidence because Henry Ford [Foundation] told us that they knew the data was correct, that they supported the actions we were taking, but they had \$2.2 billion in contracts with Mayor (Mike) Duggan and the City of Detroit, and the mayor has a reputation of being very vindictive, and they were worried that he would close those contracts if they stepped out with us and made this information public.

E.G.: Last week, free bottled water for Flint was discontinued, with the state citing two years of test results showing the water is now safe, but the mayor of

Flint is threatening to sue over the cut-off. This is the narrative we're getting in the national news. What do you see as being the issue on the ground there? Is the water safe, and is this becoming an issue of affordability as much as it is about lead poisoning?

M.L.P.: It's both. It's affordability and it's poisoning. It's not just lead and contaminants in the water; there's also other toxins. There's phosphates. There are bacteria issues. I believe the mayor is right on point with the position he is taking, which is to pursue litigation, because the governor is in his last year of his second term and his position is, he wants to be able to take a victory lap, if you will. So part of that victory lap would be impeded with the narrative that Flint is still having to consume bottled water. So what better way to make that narrative go away than to make the bottled water go away. What we know on the ground is my organization, one of the first organizations to deliver water relief to Flint. We have continued to support water relief to Flint. We will not stop until there is a restoration of water relief to Flint.

E.G.: I read that We the People delivered more than 125 tons of safe, drinkable water to the residents of Detroit and Flint in 2015. Can you tell me a little bit more about your organization and how you're able to do this?

M.L.P.: My organization was founded in 2008 by myself and four other women. Each of those women has an incredible resume in their own right, but at the time, we were just fighting for our children to have the right to quality public education. At that point, the mayor was wanting to take over control of the Detroit Public Schools. We organized for five weeks, showed up with our children; we resisted that austerity and were successful.

Little did we know that was just part of the canary in the mine of what else they had in store for us. Over 80 percent of the bankruptcy was on the back of pensioners. We had no idea this was really a large scheme to take over and gentrify

land and to also take control over the largest asset and one of the most key assets of North America because Detroit sits on international waters. Also, 23 percent of commerce that comes into the country comes in by way of Detroit. Knowing those dynamics, we knew that we were in the crosshairs of big business and the oligarchs in terms of seizing control of our entire city.

For me, being a black woman and a mother, it became a personal assault on black women and on black families. We organized ourselves in about three or four days. I had experience around emergency response. I headed up an eight-county emergency response team for children who were having psychiatric emergencies. We took that model and flipped it over to providing emergency water.

We quickly learned how big and massive this city is; it's over 139 square miles, the transportation being very compromised. We figured out that we not only needed to make sure we were creating water spaces for people to pick up water, but then [also] recognize the aging population and some of the transportation challenges. We then created what we call "water droppers" who deliver water to persons that are homebound, sick, or people that may not have transportation or may have several children and find it difficult to get to a water station.

Out of that work, we recognized people were questioning the quality of the water, so then we partnered with Michigan State University and did a project that we just finished the second leg of in November, to test the quality of water in Detroit because we'd been told by the EPA that water could be tested anywhere in the state of Michigan but Detroit. That sends a message to grass roots that there definitely has to be something wrong if you can test water anywhere in the state of Michigan but Detroit, being that that's the largest city in Michigan.

The third thing that we found was, we convened our own community-based researchers, and we had some of the top experts across the country, 67 of them in total; they represented all kinds of institutions of higher learning that are convened under our jurisdiction, so anything created in collaboration with them is already controlled by the community and, of course, We The People of Detroit. We hold this data on behalf of the community.

There's been over 100,000 persons shut off from water. We have litigated against the city eight times now, and we have won each of those pieces of litigation. The water department continues to redact information, which causes us to have to continue to pursue more litigation. We were involved in another action where there's been over 100,000 households illegally foreclosed on, which is another tactic to force people out of the city. Many of these persons are low-income persons, but they are paying as much as 80 to 90 percent above what they should be paying for their taxes.

It's these kind of measures along with

see DETROIT, page 11

## A PLACE FOR ALL

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## Detroit's water woes

continued from page 10

the fact the high rate of water has been used as another weapon: to place that debt on top of the tax laws, which creates a situation for low-income people that makes it unbearable because it makes it where their taxes are not affordable, and then on top of that, the unaffordability of water, which is causing them to be indebted, which then causes them to lose their property. Of the households that we analyzed in 2015 that went into foreclosure, the majority owed approximately \$1,900, and many of their homes sold for \$16,000 to \$18,000 per household, but dollars that were intended through the stimulus package to keep Detroiters in their homes should've paid back-water bills and back-taxes. Instead, it is now being levied to entice a younger, whiter population to move into the city. You won't give [assistance to] a resident who has stayed and paid in this city to *stay* in the city, many times needing less than \$2,000, but then you'll provide \$20,000 to \$80,000 for another person to move into the city who is actually coming in as a new resident.

E.G.: You're coming to Portland to talk about the situation in Detroit. Why should what is happening in Michigan matter to Portlanders? What can we learn from your experiences?

M.L.P.: Hopefully what Portland will learn is that we're sort of the canary in the mine for other communities that we believe are going to fall prey to this kind of austerity. We actually knew in 2013 that Puerto Rico was going to be next.

Many of the same players that are a part of what happened in Detroit – everybody from the DeVos family, who is deeply benefiting from the charterizing of public education – they're a part of privatizing water, also privatizing transportation, large airports; they're also a part of privatizing trash collection. We believe these players need to be called out and identified. The second-largest law firm in the world has been a major actor in representing the banks that are benefiting from this austerity. There is an article called "The New Water Barons" ([globalresearch.ca](http://globalresearch.ca)), and what you'll find in that article is many of the banks that were protected during the bankrupting of Detroit are the same banks that are buying up the aquifers around the globe.

What I am hoping we can show is not only some of the information and the wisdom we've learned over the course of this struggle, but also that we can begin to look for solutions in terms of how to unite our struggles so we are not continuing to fall prey to these kind of austerity measures, but instead are beginning to build collective power across the nation and hopefully eventually around the world.

We believe that people should come first. We know that water is a human right. We also know people must fight for that right.

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## 10 for \$10

## Exploring Washtenaw County on the cheap

by Elizabeth Bauman, Groundcover Contributor

Looking for something to do that won't break the bank? Hoping to try something new? Wanting a little something sweet or savory? **10 for \$10** is here to provide you with low-cost or free things to do in Washtenaw County.

1. Head to downtown **Saline on Saturday, December 1 for the 43rd Annual Christmas parade.** With floats, music, and even a visit from Santa, the parade starts at 5:30 p.m., but get there early for the best views.
2. **Visit one of the Sweetwaters cafes and enjoy a hot chocolate.** This classic, rich drink is perfect for a snowy day.
3. **Enjoy a playful reel of the best online cat videos at the Michigan Theater** on December 5 at 7 p.m. A percentage of the proceeds go to the Tiny Lions Cafe located in Ann Arbor.
4. **Visit the DIYpsi Holiday Market at the Riverside Arts Center in Ypsilanti** on Saturday, December 8, from 11 a.m. – 7 p.m. and Sunday, December 9, from 12-6 p.m. You are sure to find a special gift for someone.
5. **Learn how to use a letterpress at the downtown Ann Arbor Public Library.** The instructor and all the materials you need are provided to create one-of-a-kind cards. Visit the library website for times.
6. Take your family and friends and join the **U-M School for Environment and Sustainability Winter Solstice Celebration** on December 14 from 3-6 p.m. This family-friendly event is in the Ford Commons at the Dana Building on the University of Michigan campus.
7. Head to the **Chelsea Bakery** at 117 S. Main for a cup of hot coffee and a delicious apple fritter.
8. **Spend time researching how you can give back in the new year.** Love animals? Seeing a child's eyes light up when they learn something new? Want to help keep our community clean? The cost is free, the dividends are priceless.
9. Relax with your friends or co-workers at the **Ann Arbor Distilling Co.** Enjoy happy hour Tuesday-Thursday from 4-6 p.m. Be sure to try their Arbor Winter seasonal gin.
10. **Buy the Fall 2018 special edition of Groundcover News, "Women's Voices,"** from one of the many vendors in Ann Arbor.

Want to contribute to 10 for \$10? Please send ideas for inexpensive treasures and experiences in and around our vibrant community to [submissions@groundcovernews.com](mailto:submissions@groundcovernews.com).

## PUZZLE SOLUTIONS

4	8	6	2	9	1	7	3	5
5	7	9	4	8	3	6	2	1
1	2	3	5	6	7	9	4	8
3	6	1	7	5	8	2	9	4
7	4	5	1	2	9	8	6	3
2	9	8	3	4	6	1	5	7
9	1	7	6	3	5	4	8	2
8	5	4	9	1	2	3	7	6
6	3	2	8	7	4	5	1	9

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17	M	O	N	T	E	R	R	E	Y	J	A	C
20	J	I	H	A	D	G	E	M	O	R	A	
23	B	I	K	E	R	A	C	K	E	T	H	O
27	A	M	E	S	S	R	O	N	F	I	N	A
30	D	A	R	T	G	O	D	S	E	N	O	R
33	I	C	E	P	I	C	K	E	T			
36	T	R	I	C	O	T	A	A	A	E	L	O
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50	E	T	D	K	E	N	I	S	A	A	C	
53	D	R	A	W	I	N	G	A	B	L	A	N
58	G	A	Z	E	S	O	P	A	L	D	E	N
61	E	P	E	E	S	S	E	T	S	S	R	T



## Mouth-watering meatballs

by Elizabeth Bauman  
Groundcover Contributor

### Ingredients

1 pound ground beef  
1 pound Italian sausage  
1 egg  
1/2 cup finely chopped onion

1/4 cup chopped parsley (or a bit more)  
1/4 cup fresh grated Parmesan cheese  
4-ounce block of mozzarella cheese

### Directions

Mix the first 7 ingredients together in a large bowl. Form into balls a little larger than a golf ball. Stuff with centimeter-cubed piece of mozzarella cheese. Place on cookie sheet and bake for 10-12

minutes at 350 degrees. Do not allow the cheese to melt out of the meatball.

Remove from cookie sheet and blot to remove grease. Transfer to a pot

of your favorite marinara sauce and allow meatballs to simmer for an additional 30-40 minutes. Serve hot with spaghetti noodles.

## Deck the Halls!

Get your holiday shopping done this year at the Kiwanis Thrift Sale! Every purchase made helps families in need in our community. Check out our two great sales below:

### 1st Annual 2-Day Toy Sale

December 7th & 8th  
9am – 1pm

### Holiday Gifts & Decorations Sale

Every Friday and Saturday  
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9am – 1pm

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